

Congressional Race as told by Interviews and paper clippings

With five candidates in the race for congressional nomination and primary scheduled for a number of the thirteen counties in the district, the situation is becoming more intense.

Judge Merrimon and Walter Moore, who have been in the role of receptive but not active candidates, have qualified in the counties to hold primaries and are endeavoring to win the nomination.

Congressman Gudger has taken up quarters in the district to look after his interests and while he doesn't predict victory in every county he feels confident of success, despite the claims of the friends of Solicitor Reynolds.

Solicitor Reynolds has requested Mr. Gudger and Mr. Harrison to join him in asking for a primary for congressional candidates in Macon, the home of Mr. Harrison.

Mr. Reynolds will fire his campaign gun in Henderson county this week with a meeting at the East Flat Rock school house Wednesday night. On Thursday night "Bob" will speak at the court house in Hendersonville, where he will give the voters of Hendersonville and vicinity their first opportunity to hear him in the present campaign.

In view of his unique methods and his pleasing manner of campaign it is predicted that "Bob" will be heard by an enthusiastic audience.

The papers of the district are discussing the congressional situation at length and for the benefit of the readers of the Democrat throughout the district, the following clippings from papers printed during the past week are published:

Merrimon in the Ring.

Judge James H. Merrimon of Asheville, one of the most distinguished attorneys of the state and one of the ablest men in the Tenth Congressional district, has definitely decided to be a candidate for the democratic nomination for congress from this district. The name of Judge Merrimon will appear upon the official ballots of the Haywood county primary and his many friends and admirers in this county will be enabled to vote directly for him.

Several weeks ago Judge Merrimon was quoted in an interview in one of the Asheville papers as saying that he was a candidate but would make no campaign or other effort to secure the nomination. Since then there has been no public announcement from him and his friends, at least in this section, had concluded that he was in reality not a candidate before the people, but would merely allow his name to be used before the congressional convention in case of a dead-lock there.

However, Judge Merrimon has this week formally filed his notice of candidacy with the Haywood Democratic Executive Committee, along with a check covering his portion of the expense of the primary as required by the primary act, and his name will therefore appear upon the official ballots.

Gudger's Appropriations.

One of the strong claims advanced by the friends of Congressman Gudger why he should be returned was that he is now in a position, by reason of important committee appointments, to greatly aid Waynesville postoffice, for which purpose an authorization of \$65,000 was made some time ago. It has been argued that a new man would be helpless to aid Waynesville in this matter, and that Mr. Gudger was now able, on account of his place on the committee on public buildings, to do what Waynesville people are so anxious to have done.

This confidence in the powers of Mr. Gudger seemingly are misplaced, however, for Mr. Gudger himself in a letter some days ago to a prominent citizen of Waynesville admits that he is powerless to move a hand toward getting Waynesville the building which is so badly needed. When Mr. Gudger was in Waynesville week before last he personally made the same statements to citizens here, and he ought to know what he is talking about.

The letter from Mr. Gudger mentioned was mailed in an envelope carrying the congressional frank of Mr. Gudger which the law says shall be used only for official government business.

Moore Running.

The name of Walter E. Moore of Jackson county was this week filed with the Haywood county democratic executive committee as a candidate for the democratic nomination for congress, which means that Mr. Moore wants all the votes that he can get in

this county. It is also understood that he has entered the Buncombe county primary.

Mr. Moore is one of the best known attorneys in Western North Carolina. He has practiced in the courts of every county in this end of the state and has travelled the district from one end to the other. He has served his own county in the legislature as representative and state senator and four years ago was one of the contestants for the democratic nomination for congress, receiving a most creditable vote.

Gudger vs. Britt.

The Courier learns from reliable sources that Hon. James J. Britt will accept the republican nomination for congress in the event that Mr. James M. Gudger, Jr., receives the democratic nomination, but that he will not make the race for the republicans if Mr. Robert R. Reynolds should be the democrat nominee. Now doesn't that look significant?

We hereby offer a reward of a perfectly bum nicker for any one who will step forward and furnish us with the information as to when an appropriation of \$50,000 from the national treasury was secured through the efforts of Congressman Gudger for the establishment of a fish hatchery in the Tenth district. If we have been sleep we want to be waked up—and we hardly feel that we could have slept through the noise that that much money would have made.

Merrimon Strength.

Judge James H. Merrimon announces himself in this issue of The Sun a candidate for Congress in this district. He is a sound, good and able man; and he will be counted as a prominent factor in the congressional race. If nominated, he would ably represent the district.

Why Bob's For Congress.

Mr. Robert R. Reynolds, better known by the sobriquet, "Our Bob," spoke to a large crowd here Monday night in the interest of his candidacy for the congressional nomination. Mr. Reynolds spoke from the steps of Hotel Mabree and delighted the men, women and children who gathered to hear him.

The "issues" were cast aside by Mr. Reynolds and he launched into his reason for entering the race. He was a candidate, he said, because our forefathers had said that any man 25 years and old and over was eligible to a seat in the United States Congress; he was a free born American citizen, and, he added, he wanted the \$7,500—"just as every other candidate wants it." Mr. Reynolds is a typical American—young, vigorous, strong and a good mixer. He was perfectly frank throughout his talk and this fact seemed to win him friends.

Mr. Reynolds had no word of condemnation for any of the other candidates; said they no doubt were good men, but believed that he could come nearer earning that \$7,500 than any man in the race. Before closing his speech, he told his hearers that he was the captain of Troop B and that he was expecting a call to go to the front, "I do not want to go," he said, "I am not seeking bullets; what I am looking for is votes, but if the call comes, boys, I will go. If the call comes I ask that you do not forget me, for I will come back. Keep fighting for me while I am fighting for you and I will come back to take my place if you elect me to congress."

Mr. Reynolds was introduced by ex-Sheriff Martin of Ellenboro, who came over to hear him and accompany him to Ellenboro, Cliffside, Henrietta and Caroleen where speeches were made yesterday and today. The Forest City band furnished music and put the crowd in the proper mood for listening to a speech.

Big Buncombe Crop.

Buncombe county now has four candidates for congress, Gudger, Reynolds, Merrimon and Fullbright. The other candidates are Harrison of Macon, and Moore of Jackson.

Harrison Shaking Hands.

J. O. Harrison, of Franklin, candidate for the Democratic nomination for congress in the Tenth district was in the city Monday and Tuesday shaking hands with his many friends. Mr. Harrison is very popular with our people and will receive a good number of votes at this place.

Gudger's Strong Points.

The "Gandy Kid" is trying to make

his appeal up to Washington a good one.

It is a little late in the day to hold just one mistaken vote on the part of Congressman Gudger against him, after he has been endorsed and returned to congress by a larger majority than he had prior to the action held against him. He has not made any other serious mistake since then, has he? One error in nearly eight years is a pretty good record.

It has been charged that Mr. Gudger has used his franking privilege for personal matter. This blame will have to go to the heads of the post-office department as Mr. Gudger has had an opinion in writing from them as to whether or not the matter in question was on the free list. Few men, congressmen or others care to take the chance of a \$200 fine for each letter wrongfully sent out under a government frank. A loss of \$193.98 is a little to long a bet to take. Such charges are a joke, and the fact that those who make them do not report them to some postoffice inspector shows there is little in them when it would be so greatly to the advantage of the opposing candidates to be able to establish such a violation.

There is one inseparable point in favor of the return of James M. Gudger, Jr., to congress at the coming election and that is his committee standing. An inspection of the list of committees of the house shows that North Carolina holds but two chairmanships, Gudger is head of the committee on expenditures in the post office department and Godwin on reform in the civil service commission. Webb, Godwin, Falson and Kitchen each stand second in committees, while Gudger is also chairman of the sub-committee of public buildings and grounds having in charge our own state of North Carolina. It seems well nigh impossible that the people of the tenth district can be of two minds as to the advisability of supporting a man who has brought these honors to them, who has attained a standing in Washington which makes possible his being of great value to the country and to the people he represents.

The under current of opinion is that Congressman Gudger is steadily gaining ground throughout the tenth district, and that his prospects of being returned to Washington as the representative of the people of this section grow brighter every day.

This is as it should be. The thinking men of the district, those with its welfare at heart above the factional political feeling that is or may be injected into the situation feel that Mr. Gudger has reached a position of influence where he is better fitted than ever before to aid the district in those things they desire. In an organization where power is gained only by service and by climbing the ladder of seniority it is unwise to make a change unless the man in the office is utterly unfit for the work, and there is no one that goes so far as to say that Mr. Gudger is anywhere near in this class. His mistakes, as charged against him, are overshadowed by the good that he has done the district, by the fact that he has been able to win positions as chairman on committees of the house, a thing he could not have done of he was not considered worthy by his associates, and a thing no other congressman has been able to do from this district in the past.

Merrimon Running.

Judge James H. Merrimon of this city today makes formal announcement through the columns of The Gazette-News that he will be a candidate before the democratic congressional convention of the Tenth North Carolina district for nomination, and that the voters of Buncombe and Haywood counties, as well as those of the remaining 11 counties in the district which hold primaries, will be given an opportunity to cast their ballots for him in these primaries. He states in his announcement that he will not be able to carry on an active personal campaign, as he has obligations that will consume all his time until July 1, but that he is confident that his friends will look after his interests.

Judge Merrimon does not claim to have qualifications above others in the race, or above others who may enter the race, but states that he enters simply because he is qualified for the position and is following out a constitutional right. He points to his record of 45 years as a democrat and says that he has always stood staunchly by the democratic standard, through success and adversity. He gives his endorsement to the Wilson administration.

Moore Working Odd Moments.

Hon. Walter E. Moore was in Sylva Saturday and told a representative of the Journal that he is a candidate for

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the Democratic nomination for congress and has reassuring statements from friends in different parts of the district.

Mr. Moore stated that while his court duties prevent his making as aggressive a campaign as he would like to make, he is doing what campaigning he can find time to do and that his friends are working for him.

ANGELINE WHISPERINGS.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Covington and little daughter of Pensacola, Fla., are stopping at the Marion Farm and expect to spend the summer there.

Mr. Paul Carland from Orlando, Fla., is visiting his parents. Davenport & Whitaker who have bought Dr. S. E. Greenwood's and A. E. Corpening grist mill have erected a building on the bank of beautiful Mills River near their store and hope to have the mill in operation at that place soon.

The farmers have about finished planting their corn and are looking forward to a good crop this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson of Brevard spent Sunday with his brother, S. E. Johnson.

Mrs. J. S. Rhodes is visiting her sons, Messrs. Gaither and J. Mack Rhodes of Hendersonville.

Miss Carry May Warlick, Messrs. Dan Cathey and Ural Carland of Asheville spent Sunday with friends in Avangeline.

Mrs. Blanch Carter of the city is spending the week with Mrs. Thomas Carland.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jefferson have gone to Virginia on business.

EDNEYVILLE NEWS.

There will be a box supper at Edneyville church Saturday evening, May 23rd at 7:30. Let everybody come and enjoy a good time. The proceeds of the supper will go to paint the church inside.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner Justus of Fletcher visited their parents Saturday night and Sunday.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Justus gave them a pounding and serenade Saturday night and had a nice time. We are glad to know they have moved into their new home.

Messrs. Bryant and John and Miss Ytal Blanton made a delightful trip to Chimney Rock Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Justus wish to thank their many friends who have helped them with their house and also the work that was done on Friday, April 10th, by the Modern Woodmen of America and other near neighbors. They especially want to thank the people for what they have given them and for the many things that were carried to the pounding Saturday night.

The new house that has been started for some time for Mrs. Maude Gibson is about finished.

✦ FLETCHER ROUTE 3 ITEMS. ✦
Mrs. A. T. Hart of Tryon was the guest of friends in this section several days last week.
J. P. White made a business trip to Hendersonville recently.
We regret to learn that Mrs. F. J. Israel is on the sick list.

E. A. Livingston of Bee Tree, spent Sunday with relatives here.
S. H. Bagwell has returned after attending the re-union at Jacksonville, Fla.
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